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BULLETIN OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFIT STATISTICS

DECEMBER, 1946

1. GENERAL

This summary, issued by the Commonwealth Statistician, (Dr. Roland Wilson), covers the operations of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Acts, 1944, during the month of December, 1946 and the six months ended December, 1946.

The Act provides for the payment of benefit to persons whose normal earnings have been interrupted through unemployment or temporary incapacity. The Act also provides a third class of benefit - designated Special Benefit - which gives a measure of assistance to those persons who, on account of some special circumstances, cannot comply with the statutory requirements relating to unemployment or sickness benefit, and who are prevented from earning a livelihood and are in need.

The number of recipients of benefit do not embrace the total unemployment and sickness in the community. Unemployment or sickness of less than seven days' duration is not covered due to the provision in the Act of a "waiting period" of this length of time during which no benefit is payable. Permanent incapacity is not included as this is covered by the Invalid and Old Age Pensions Act. The application of a "means test" excludes another group from benefit. The inclusion of claims rejected - see 2(i) - completes the coverage of all persons applying for benefit, irrespective of whether their claims are approved or rejected.

The number of "persons on benefit" in this summary relates to principal beneficiaries who would normally be breadwinners. Dependants on such beneficiaries are not included.

The information contained in this bulletin has been compiled from data made available by the Department of Social Services. The details given in Section 4, 6 and 7 refer to admittances and exits notified during the period shown and not to admittances and exits which actually occurred during that period.

Due to delay in the receipt of information in respect of some beneficiaries, the figures are preliminary and subject to revision. This applies particularly to discontinuances and results in persons on benefit at the end of the month being overstated.

2. SUMMARY

(i) Claims Rejected: The number of applicants for benefit whose claims were rejected during the six months ended December, 1946, is shown in the table below. No further dissection of these rejected claims has been made but it is hoped to extract further information in the near future.

CLAIMS REJECTED - SIX MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER, 1946 : STATES

S t a t e	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	T o t a l	
				Number	Percent of All Claims
New South Wales					
(a) ..	2,093	935	38	3,066	17.2
Victoria ..	2,613	1,198	37	3,848	18.3
Queensland ..	9,593	680	31	10,304	30.1
South Australia					
(b) ..	2,186	764	17	2,967	42.9
Western Australia	3,534	477	19	4,030	24.9
Tasmania ..	64	191	4	259	14.6
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>20,083</b>	<b>4,245</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>24,474</b>	<b>25.0</b>

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory,  
(b) Includes Northern Territory.



(ii) Claims Admitted, Exits, Persons on Benefit: The following table shows for the year ended June, 1946 and for the months from July to December, 1946, the number of claims admitted and discontinued and persons remaining on benefit:-

CLAIMS ADMITTED, DISCONTINUANCES AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1946 AND MONTHS OF JULY TO DECEMBER, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Period	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
<u>CLAIMS ADMITTED</u>									
1946 -									
Year ended									
June ..	65,455	12,289	33,178	6,724	242	194	98,875	19,207	118,082
July (a)	9,071	2,494	3,334	666	57	17	12,462	3,177	15,639
August (a)	3,875	164	4,199	917	56	31	8,130	1,112	9,242
September (a)	2,791	109	3,385	759	27	22	6,203	890	7,093
October (a)	2,974	88	3,429	851	47	13	6,450	952	7,402
November (a)	15,172	950	4,078	992	151	14	19,401	1,956	21,357
December (a)	6,474	222	1,953	469	75	4	8,507	695	9,202
<u>DISCONTINUANCES</u>									
1946 -									
Year ended									
June ..	58,879	11,992	27,550	5,432	186	54	86,615	17,478	104,093
July (a)	9,079	2,483	2,843	536	37	8	11,959	3,027	14,986
August (a)	4,060	193	3,775	777	42	16	7,877	986	8,863
September (a)	2,928	145	3,235	650	24	8	6,187	803	6,990
October (a)	2,907	97	3,234	711	26	17	6,167	825	6,992
November (a)	8,113	740	3,886	857	51	8	12,050	1,605	13,655
December (a)	2,050	95	1,364	369	23	3	3,437	467	3,904
<u>PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF EACH MONTH</u>									
1946 -									
June ..	6,576	297	5,628	1,292	56	140	12,260	1,729	13,989
July (a)	6,568	308	6,119	1,422	76	149	12,763	1,879	14,642
August (a)	6,383	279	6,543	1,562	90	164	13,016	2,005	15,021
September (a)	6,246	243	6,693	1,671	93	178	13,032	2,092	15,124
October (a)	6,313	234	6,888	1,811	114	174	13,315	2,219	15,534
November (a)	13,372	444	7,080	1,946	214	180	20,666	2,570	23,236
December (a)	17,796	571	7,674	2,046	266	181	25,736	2,798	28,534

(a) Subject to revision.

NOTE: For monthly figures from July, 1945 to June, 1946, see October, 1946 Bulletin.

3. BENEFITS PAID

The benefits paid in respect of each class of benefit in each State during December, 1946, and the six months ended December, 1946, are shown in the following table:-

AMOUNT OF BENEFITS PAID DURING DECEMBER, 1946 AND THE SIX MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER, 1946 : STATES

State	Benefits paid during December, 1946				Benefits paid during six months ended December, 1946			
	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	Total	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	Total
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
N.S.W. (a)	12,339	20,213	474	33,026	74,068	127,153	1,926	203,147
Victoria	35,604	13,477	514	49,595	61,117	88,245	1,696	151,058
Q'ld.	27,194	6,619	398	34,211	155,264	48,535	1,923	205,722
S.A. (b)	2,567	6,895	67	9,529	11,618	38,618	681	50,917
W.A.	12,357	4,934	232	17,523	70,067	29,526	1,129	100,722
Tasmania	730	2,705	202	3,637	4,837	16,762	1,023	22,622
TOTAL:	90,791	54,843	1,887	147,521	376,971	348,839	8,378	734,188

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory

(b) Includes Northern Territory.



4. BENEFITS DISCONTINUED

(i) Duration: The number of weeks during which benefit was paid for each of the cases of benefit whose discontinuance was notified during the six months ended December, 1946, is shown in the following table:-

DURATION OF BENEFITS DISCONTINUED DURING THE SIX MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Duration of Benefit Weeks	Unemployment			Sickness			TOTAL (a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Loss than 1	7,720	1,256	8,976	1,818	283	2,101	9,560	1,539	11,099
1 and under 2	9,040	1,961	11,001	3,028	543	3,571	12,099	2,508	14,607
2 " " 3	3,030	117	3,147	2,683	452	3,135	5,757	575	6,332
3 " " 4	2,136	84	2,220	2,274	493	2,767	4,440	578	5,018
4 " " 5	1,509	69	1,578	1,715	382	2,097	3,270	456	3,726
5 " " 9	3,598	153	3,751	3,824	828	4,652	7,471	996	8,467
9 " " 13	2,184	107	2,291	1,696	448	2,144	2,908	566	4,474
13 " " 26	2,788	182	2,970	1,950	559	2,509	4,762	754	5,516
26 and over	840	42	882	1,052	250	1,302	1,902	310	2,212
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>32,845</b>	<b>3,971</b>	<b>36,816</b>	<b>20,040</b>	<b>4,238</b>	<b>24,278</b>	<b>53,169</b>	<b>8,282</b>	<b>61,451</b>

(a) Includes Special Benefits (284 males, 73 females, 357 persons).

Of the 61,451 benefits whose discontinuance was notified during the six months ended December, 1946, 20,669 (34 per cent.) were in receipt of benefit for five weeks and over, 24,395 (40 per cent.) for four weeks and over, 29,413 (48 per cent.) for three weeks and over, 35,745 (58 per cent.) for two weeks and over, 50,352 (84 per cent.) for one week and over, whilst 11,099 (16 per cent.) received benefit for less than one week.

Average duration of unemployment benefits discontinued was shorter than that of sickness. Twenty-four per cent. of unemployment and nine per cent. of sickness cases were in receipt of benefit for less than one week, whilst for durations of less than three weeks the percentages were 63 and 36 respectively.

(ii) Reasons for Cessation: Of the 36,816 cases of unemployment benefit whose termination was notified during the six months ended December, 1946, 34,766 (94.4 per cent.) secured employment or failed to report (which in most cases means that the beneficiary has resumed employment without advising the Department of Social Services), 1,142 (3.1 per cent.) transferred to Sickness Benefit or to another district and 221 (0.6 per cent.) transferred to Rehabilitation Allowance.

Of the 24,278 cases of sickness benefit whose termination was notified, 20,917 (86.6 per cent.) recovered from their illness and presumably resumed employment, 1,102 (4.5 per cent.) were classified as permanently incapacitated which, in practically every case, means that they were transferred to Invalid pensions, 954 (3.9 per cent.) transferred to Unemployment Benefit or to another district and 450 (1.9 per cent.) died.

5. PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF DECEMBER, 1946

TOTAL PERSONS.

(i) Proportion per 10,000 in Employment: The proportion of persons on benefit at 28th December, 1946, to the estimated number of employees in employment was approximately 116 per 10,000, comprising 74 unemployment, 40 sickness and 2 special cases per 10,000. The following table shows the proportions for males and females separately:-

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 28TH DECEMBER, 1946 PER 10,000 WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT : AUSTRALIA

Sex	Proportion	No. on benefit per 10,000 in employment			
		Unemployment	Sickness	Special	Total
Males	.. per 10,000 males	100	43	1	144
Females	.. per 10,000 females	8	30	3	41
Persons	.. per 10,000 persons	74	40	2	116



(ii) State Totals: The following table shows the number of persons in each State in receipt of benefit at 28th December, 1946:-

NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 28TH DECEMBER, 1946 : STATES

State	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		T o t a l		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
N.S.W. (a)	2,609	78	2,924	689	44	44	5,577	811	6,388
Vic.	6,655	205	1,958	578	151	41	8,764	824	9,588
Q'ld.	5,971	168	1,069	283	33	35	7,073	486	7,559
S.A. (b)	384	4	713	186	6	12	1,103	202	1,305
W.A.	2,049	115	620	206	22	21	2,691	342	3,033
Tas.	128	1	390	104	10	28	528	133	661
<u>TOTAL:</u>	17,796	571	7,674	2,046	266	181	25,736	2,798	28,534

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory,

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(iii) Ages: Distribution of persons on benefit at 28th December, 1946, according to age groups is shown in the following table:-

GROUPED AGE : PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 28TH DECEMBER, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Grouped Age (as at 31st Dec., 1946)	Unemployment			Sickness			T o t a l (a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
16 - 19 years	649	127	776	501	433	934	1,150	573	1,723
20 - 24 years	2,193	169	2,362	698	525	1,223	2,892	706	3,598
25 - 29 years	2,146	62	2,208	593	244	837	2,743	319	3,062
30 - 34 years	2,007	51	2,058	642	162	804	2,655	234	2,889
35 - 39 years	1,708	35	1,743	711	145	856	2,423	201	2,624
40 - 44 years	1,868	35	1,903	747	148	895	2,616	208	2,824
45 - 49 years	1,773	37	1,810	817	171	988	2,593	236	2,829
50 - 54 years	1,769	25	1,794	963	131	1,094	2,733	181	2,914
55 - 59 years	1,846	29	1,875	1,099	84	1,183	2,956	129	3,085
60 - 64 years	1,837	1	1,838	903	3	906	2,975	11	2,986
<u>TOTAL:</u>	17,796	571	18,367	7,674	2,046	9,720	25,736	2,798	28,534

(a) Includes Special Benefits (266 males, 181 females, 447 persons)

6. UNEMPLOYMENT - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING THE SIX MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF DECEMBER, 1946

(i) Cause of Unemployment: The following table analyses the reasons for termination of employment as stated by persons whose admission to benefit was notified during the six months ended December, 1946 and by those who were on benefit at 28th December, 1946.

Discharges and lay-offs are separations on the initiative of the employer, the broad distinction being that a discharge is final and there is no likelihood of the person being re-engaged, at least in the near future. A lay-off is a separation of a temporary nature with the idea that the job will be available again for the employee as soon as circumstances permit.

Quits are separations which take place on the initiative of the employee.



CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT : CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING  
SIX MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER, 1946 - AUSTRALIA

Cause of Unemployment	Admitted during six months ended Dec. 1946			On benefit at 28th December, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Discharged for disciplinary reasons ..	425	9	434	126	1	127
Discharged for other reasons -						
Inefficiency, including medical unfitness ..	1,150	45	1,195	669	20	689
Retrenchment, including closing of establishment ..	3,616	138	3,754	1,365	29	1,394
Replaced by reinstated ex-service personnel etc., relieving worker only	1,406	115	1,521	616	30	646
Other discharges, including inadequately defined ..	238	9	247	85	2	87
Laid-off owing to -						
Power rationing ..	8,028	2,984	11,012	441	92	533
Shortage of materials ..	1,470	32	1,502	501	7	508
Strikes, lock-outs within the same establishment ..	11,513	321	11,834	6,921	173	7,094
Seasonal work ..	3,524	87	3,611	2,489	71	2,560
Casual work ..	3,730	35	3,765	1,325	11	1,336
Other reasons, including inadequately defined ..	558	12	570	188	6	194
Inadequately defined ..	4	-	4	372	7	379
Quitted -						
Medical unfitness, work too heavy ..	2,437	148	2,585	1,118	59	1,177
Other quits, including inadequately defined ..	1,664	103	1,767	642	33	675
Not previously employed -						
Employers, workers on own account ..	579	7	586	262	2	264
Ex-service personnel not yet returned to work ..	1,832	35	1,867	670	15	685
Other ..	16	24	40	6	13	19
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>42,190</b>	<b>4,104</b>	<b>46,294</b>	<b>17,796</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>18,367</b>

(ii) Industrial Groups: In the following statement is shown the distribution, according to main industrial groups, of persons whose admission to benefit was notified during the six months ended December, 1946, and of these on benefit at 28th December, 1946:-

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING SIX MONTHS ENDED  
DECEMBER, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Industrial Group	Claims admitted during six months ended December, 1946			On Benefit at 28th December, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying ..	3,337	7	3,344	1,797	2	1,799
Other Primary Production ..	480	-	480	205	-	205
Coal Mining ..	887	-	887	44	-	44
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	515	-	515	137	-	137
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal working, including shipbuilding ..	11,552	312	11,864	6,932	135	7,067
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	2,376	25	2,401	418	13	431
Textiles and articles of dress ..	1,015	2,092	3,107	163	95	258
Food, drink and tobacco ..	3,985	390	4,375	2,052	99	2,151
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	1,424	43	1,467	252	-	252
Other factories, including heat, light and power ..	2,678	263	2,941	869	34	903
Building and Construction ..	2,887	1	2,888	1,030	-	1,030
Transport and Communication ..	3,639	66	3,705	940	6	946
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade ..	2,424	201	2,625	905	31	936
Finance and property ..	134	9	143	68	3	71
Public Administration and Professional	1,733	98	1,831	789	35	824
Personal and Domestic Service ..	1,480	542	2,022	564	89	653
Other ..	1,644	55	1,699	631	29	660
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>42,190</b>	<b>4,104</b>	<b>46,294</b>	<b>17,796</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>18,367</b>



The States with the largest numbers of males in receipt of unemployment benefit at 28th December, 1946, in the principal industrial groups were:-

Founding, Engineering, etc.: (Commonwealth 6,932 males) - Victoria, 5,411; New South Wales, 870; Queensland, 227; Western Australia, 218; South Australia, 198.

Food, Drink, etc., Factories: (Commonwealth 2,050 males) - Queensland 1,679; New South Wales, 141; Western Australia, 106.

Agriculture, Pastoral, etc.: (Commonwealth 1,797 males) - Queensland, 1,270, New South Wales, 351.

Building and Construction: (Commonwealth 1,030 males) - Queensland, 502; New South Wales, 219; Western Australia, 162; Victoria, 104.

Transport and Communication: (Commonwealth 940 males) - Queensland, 438; Western Australia, 285; New South Wales, 113.

Wholesale and Retail Trade: (Commonwealth 805 males) - Queensland, 385; Western Australia, 204; New South Wales, 172.

Public Administration, etc.: (Commonwealth 789 males) - Queensland 437; Western Australia, 146; New South Wales, 123.

(a) Defence-Civilian employees : (Commonwealth 406 males) - Queensland 397.

(iii) Metropolitan and Other: Unemployment benefits whose admission was notified during the six months ended December, 1946, and those current at 28th December, 1946, are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table:-

DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) : STATES

State	Claims admitted during six months ended December, 1946				On Benefit at 28th December, 1946			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
N.S.W. (b) ..	2,159	37	3,371	198	1,267	12	1,342	66
Victoria ..	3,346	291	1,470	23	6,166	197	489	8
Queensland ..	7,728	1,885	3,253	866	1,945	18	4,026	150
South Australia								
(c) ..	564	4	297	4	293	4	91	-
Western Australia	6,738	728	1,305	67	1,831	102	213	13
Tasmania ..	192	-	67	1	112	-	16	1
TOTAL:	25,727	2,945	16,463	1,159	11,614	333	6,182	238

- (a) Metropolitan comprises the regions administered from Capital City and Suburban district offices of the Departments of Social Services or Labour and National Service (Employment Service). In N.S.W., Liverpool is included in "Other". In S.A., Port Adelaide and in W.A., Fremantle and Midland Junction are included in Metropolitan.
- (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

2. SICKNESS - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING THE SIX MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 1946 AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF DECEMBER, 1946

(i) Metropolitan and Other: Sickness benefits whose admission was notified during the six months ended December, 1946 and those current at 28th December, 1946, are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table:-

DISTRIBUTION OF SICKNESS BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) : STATES

State	Claims admitted during six months ended December, 1946				On Benefit at 28th December, 1946			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
N.S.W. (b) ..	3,571	1,028	3,569	518	1,439	451	1,435	238
Victoria ..	3,360	1,093	1,983	399	1,309	447	649	131
Queensland ..	1,461	355	1,920	276	498	175	571	108
S.A. (c) ..	1,650	349	892	135	496	138	217	48
W.A. ..	1,335	402	815	153	436	143	184	38
Tasmania ..	357	86	674	108	191	55	199	49
TOTAL:	11,734	3,313	9,853	1,594	4,419	1,434	3,255	612

(a) See footnote to Table 6 (a). (b) Includes A.C.T. (c) Includes Northern Territory.



(ii) Nature of Sickness: The following table shows the principal causes of sickness, as stated on medical certificates, of persons whose admission was notified during the six months ended December, 1946 and of those on benefit at 28th December, 1946:-

NATURE OF SICKNESS : CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING SIX MONTHS  
ENDED DECEMBER, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Nature of Sickness	Claims admitted during six months ended December, 1946			On Benefit at 28th December 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	1,556	331	1,887	461	147	608
Cancer ..	159	19	178	84	12	96
Other Tumours ..	179	103	282	70	49	119
Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition and Vitamin-Deficiency Diseases ..	1,405	317	1,722	653	204	857
Diseases of -						
Blood and Blood-forming Organs ..	114	100	214	59	48	107
Nervous System and Sense Organs ..	1,900	604	2,504	770	282	1,052
Circulatory System ..	1,805	219	2,024	918	108	1,026
Respiratory System ..	2,708	459	3,167	837	172	1,009
Digestive System ..	4,549	1,023	5,572	1,406	313	1,719
Genito-Urinary System ..	837	337	1,174	312	134	446
Pregnancy, Childbirth, etc. ..	-	417	417	-	190	190
Skin and Cellular Tissue ..	1,270	237	1,507	349	71	420
Bones and Organs of Movement ..	590	114	704	222	50	272
Other Diseases (including ill-defined conditions) ..	280	133	413	88	62	150
Injuries and Acute Poisoning -						
Fractures ..	2,068	184	2,252	904	89	993
Other Injuries, etc. ..	1,937	182	2,119	453	65	518
Operations (original disability not stated) ..	144	102	246	55	42	97
Other (including not stated) ..	86	26	112	33	8	41
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>21,587</b>	<b>4,907</b>	<b>26,494</b>	<b>7,674</b>	<b>2,046</b>	<b>9,720</b>

(iii) Industrial Groups: The distribution according to main industrial groups, of persons on sickness benefit at 28th December, 1946, is shown in the following table:-

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - PERSONS ON SICKNESS BENEFIT AT 28TH DECEMBER, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Industrial Group	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying ..	664	15	679
Other Primary Production ..	190	-	190
Coal Mining ..	322	-	322
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	122	-	122
Factories and Industrial -			
Founding, engineering, metalworking, including shipbuilding ..	1,235	93	1,328
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	324	11	335
Textiles and articles of Dress ..	256	380	636
Food, drink and tobacco ..	537	123	660
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	268	13	281
Other factories, including heat, light and power	652	132	784
Building and Construction ..	900	-	900
Transport and Communication ..	736	66	802
Commerce and Finance -			
Wholesale and retail trade ..	689	350	1,039
Finance and property ..	46	26	72
Public Administration and Professional	318	315	633
Personal and Domestic Service ..	366	516	882
Other ..	49	6	55
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>7,674</b>	<b>2,046</b>	<b>9,720</b>

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